

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A latch for joining two parts to one another, ~~via, on the one hand, comprising:~~

_____ a hook possessing a curved end capable of engaging with a retaining member connected to ~~the~~ a first part, and, ~~on the other hand,~~ a main pin designed to be attached firmly to ~~the~~ a second part, said latch ~~comprising an operating part:~~

_____ a single operating member pivoting about an end pin situated on the hook at ~~the~~ an opposite end from the curved end of the ~~hook, and~~ hook; and

_____ an articulation ~~comprising including~~ a pair of compression links pivoting on the main pin and on an intermediate pin, the latter pin located on the operating member, the intermediate pin being positioned between the main pin and the end pin, ~~which latch is characterized in that~~

_____ wherein the hook is located between the operating member and the main pin, and ~~in that~~ at least one of the compression ~~link-links~~ is provided with a guide means capable of contacting ~~that~~ a surface of the hook which is nearest the operating member during the opening of the latch.

2. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each guide means consists of a spur connected to its corresponding compression link.

3. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each guide means is housed in a recess formed in ~~that surface~~ the surface of the hook which is nearest the operating member .

4. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the recess is larger in an area ~~acting that acts~~ as a housing for the guide means at the end of the latch-opening operation.

5. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that,~~ wherein in the locked position, the center of the main pin and the hook lie on either side of a line joining the center of the retaining member to the center of the intermediate pin.

6. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hook is provided with a projection capable of partially covering the main pin in the locked position.

7. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that,~~ wherein, in the locked position, the center of the main pin is positioned between the hook and a line joining the center of the retaining member to the center of the intermediate pin.

8. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ further comprises a second pair of compression links pivoting on the intermediate pin and on the end pin.

9. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ ~~comprises only one pair of compression links, said~~ wherein the operating member being is firmly attached to the intermediate pin.

10. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the operating member is divided into a main structure having ~~an a pivoting axis on~~ which pivots an and an end structure situated ~~at the at an end~~ opposite end from the end pin.

11. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a stop-piece belonging to the main structure is capable of limiting the angular travel of the end structure.

12. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that,~~
wherein, in the locked position, a spring keeps the end structure aligned with the main
structure.

13. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the operating member comprises a window giving access to the hook from the
outside.

14. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the hook has a bore that can be accessed from the outside and in which a through part
can be housed, ~~which part can prevent~~ preventing the opening of ~~said the~~ latch.